Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 3, page 1 as follows:

The present invention relates to communication network protection systems and in particular to protection systems comprising ~~also the~~ terminal points or nodes ~~of the~~ in networks ~~with~~ having an automatic control plane or program, ~~for example of the~~ such as an Automatic Switched Transport Network (ASTN) type.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 23, page 1 as follows:

Due to the system in accordance with the present invention certain advantages completely absent from prior art systems are obtained. Among such advantages are for example, for customer services, double access points with automatic switching and integration with the automatic-protection switching mechanism of the client service (APS), while for the supplier of services (in particular ASTN) it is possible to improve the availability of the service thanks to removal of the individual failure point, optimize use of the network thanks to sharing of the band width used for the client protection side, and provide support for dual ring interconnection protection in case of interworking with access and transport networks (for example satisfying what is defined in G. 841 and G. 842 for the APS protected networks). For example, considering the interworking between MS-SPRing/SNCP and ASTN networks, a single network element (NE="Network Element") can close the MS-SPRing protection and give the traffic to a protected network thanks to ASTN. The interworking NE network member is a single point of failure (SPOF) that can be advantageously protected by the proposed mechanism.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 18, page 4 as follows:

With reference to the figures, a protection system for the terminal points is proposed in accordance with the present invention. This system will be referred herein in particular to

interconnected networks ~~of which~~ at least one ~~with~~ of which includes an automatic control program, for example ASTN based on ITU-T G. 8080 architecture.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 14, page 12 as follows:

For this last type of failure, FIG 9 shows diagrammatically the case where a failure afflicts the primary origin 16. In this case, the MS-SPRing network 10 switches the client traffic to the secondary origin (SON) 18(NE_4) using standard protection diagrams (for example G. 842). The primary destination 17 (NE_2) sends a message A to the primary origin 16 (NE_1). This message requires the primary origin 16 to start the OTF reset diagram. Because of the failure, the primary origin 16 is not able to reply to the message.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 21, page 12 as follows:

PDN 17 (NE_2) detects that PON 16 (NE_1) has failed and hence that it is not able to reset the traffic. At this point PDN 17 (NE_2) recognizes that the network member protecting PON 16 (NE1) is SON 18 ~~(SON)~~ (NE4) and sends a message B to SON 18 (NE_4) to start the ASTN OTF reset mechanism. As soon as SON 18 (NE_4) receives the message B it starts creation of the new SNC within the ASTN domain.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 1, page 15 as follows:

FIG 14 shows the case of a failure on the client side of the primary destination 17 (the primary declares unavailability and switches the protection group) and of the primary origin 16 (the protection group switches to the secondary origin 18). The restoration is coordinated through the secondary destination 19 and the secondary origin 18.